

ATLANTA!

AIA Convention 2015 May 14–16, Atlanta

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Have it all in Atlanta

AIA Convention 2015 is one of the largest and most exciting annual gatherings of architects and design professionals in the U.S. The people, the ideas, the environment, the setting—it all comes together for an experience that will supercharge your year.

That's the big picture. Now let's break it down.

The LUs

Get the latest on energy efficiency, learn about LEED with behind-the-scenes tours of sites that turn innovation into practice, or immerse yourself in intensive ADA training. There are nearly 300 opportunities for high-quality, interesting, of-the-moment education. We've segmented the schedule so you can easily follow an education track or choose an area of focus.

The innovations

Get the first look at new materials and technology from nearly 800 exhibitors. Arrive early for an in-depth, hands-on pre-convention workshop and pack your schedule with career-changing seminars. And

get ahead, practically speaking: Register early to get the sessions you want. Book your hotel early and get the best choice at a discount. Get to seminars 15 minutes early and you're guaranteed a seat.

The people

Let's start with this year's opening keynote speaker: President Bill Clinton. He leads an event filled with visionaries, grassroots champions, change agents, and rising stars—all giving dynamic presentations, offering insightful education, and answering your questions. And you can earn education credit for all of it—including your talks with exhibitors.

The places

You take space seriously—and so do we. We also like to have some fun with it. That's why we're turning the Georgia World Congress Center Expo floor into a temporary built environment with dynamic visuals, theaters, lounges, and even an award-winning structure built on the spot. Outside convention doors, we show you Atlanta, with insider tours and Design + Dining events that turn city highlights into a moveable feast. Plus, Atlanta offers plenty of downtime fun—sports palaces, exclusive shopping, velvet-rope nightlife, extraordinary architecture, and quirky picnic-table dining spots.

The interactions

Students and award winners, preservationists and data engineers, experts on disaster and art-world stars—it's a potent setting where you can shake up the status quo, start a career change, and discover new collaborators. We guarantee surprises—and a memorable and valuable experience.

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Atlanta city guide



8 Things we love

Atlanta has it all—spectacular architecture, trendy neighborhoods, and plenty to do and see all over town. Here are some of our favorites.

1. Shacksterabouts

There's nothing else like them. They're part restaurant, part shack, and represent some of the city's oldest and most celebrated chefs. People travel miles out of their way to get to Wyatt's Country BBQ, in Kirkwood. In Downtown, there's the world-famous Varsity, the world's largest drive-in restaurant (chili cheese dog, rings, Frosted Orange). Or look for the several locations of This Is It! BBQ & Seafood, a favorite local soul food chain.

2. Live music

Musicians ranging from John Mayer, Elton John, and Outkast feel right at home in Atlanta, and this says something about venues, audiences, and variety. Try the Tabernacle, a former Baptist church, for hip hop and rock; Blind Willies or Northside Tavern for blues, and the Fox Theater for everything.

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3. Craft beer

With nearly 20 local breweries, Atlanta is well known in the craft beer scene. Try SweetWater, home to unpasteurized beers available only in selected Southeast states. Second Self Beer Company, another terrific local option, was founded by Georgia tech alums and offers tours and tastes on the Westside.

4. Patios

This city takes advantage of the fine Southern climate to drink and dine outdoors. Get back to nature at the Righteous Room in Sandy Springs, with an enormous tree growing out of the bar, the Buckhead Saloon in Buckhead, or Decatur's No. 246, where you can play ping pong.

Neighborhood roundup

Downtown

The closest neighborhood to the Georgia World Congress Center, it also claims attractions such as the World of Coca-Cola and the Philips Arena, designed by Arquitectonica and Populous, featuring America's first stacked suite stadium design concept in an arena. Its cluster of high rises includes landmarks ranging from designs by Philip Johnson and Marcel Breuer to Atlanta's own Flatiron Building.

Midtown

Skyscrapers and corporate headquarters and hot restaurants bump up against the Olmstead-designed Piedmont Park (check out the Noguchi Playscape) and the modernist High Museum, designed by Richard Meier with a 2005 addition by Renzo Piano, FAIA, and the new Museum of Design Atlanta. Enjoy a spot of tea? Check out Mary Mac's, declared "Atlanta's Dining Room" by the Georgia House of Representatives and the city's last tearoom from the 1940s.

Buckhead

With its trendy nightlife and restaurants, top designer stores, luxury condominium complexes, and artisanal cocktail bars, Buckhead is stunning. It's also known as the Beverly Hills of the East, so you might see a celebrity or two. Cocktail aficionados shouldn't miss The Painted Pin, an industrial warehouse-turned-bowling alley that serves boutique cocktails and also offers bocce and skeeball.

Virginia Highland

It's an eminently walkable mix of bungalow-lined streets, cafés and restaurants, and galleries and boutiques northeast of downtown. At night, you'll find casual good times and live music. Try Atlanta's best martinis (voted every year since 1989) at Highland Tap Steak Cellar, which has a classy 1920s speakeasy ambiance and plenty of steak.

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Exploring Atlanta's architecture



Five buildings that push boundaries

If you don't think of Atlanta as an architecture town, these five buildings will change your mind. Discover other iconic sites when you sign up for AIA Convention 2015 tours.

The National Center for Civil and Human Rights

The story of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement is an epic in itself. But the Center, designed by Philip Freelon and HOK, pushes beyond this, realizing a vision to connect human rights struggles around the world. Register for an educational tour to earn 1.5 LUs (program code ET205) or a fun tour for families and guests (program code GT203).

Noguchi Playscape in Piedmont Park

Visionary artist Isamu Noguchi didn't regard sculpture as a pleasure for elites only; he felt it could be a useful part of everyday life. Head downtown to the Olmstead-designed Piedmont Park for Playscape, a one-of-a-kind playground experience. It's art you can touch: Swing, slide, climb, touch, jump, run, and explore. Enter at the 12th Street gate.

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Fox Theater

Formerly a lavish movie palace, the “Fabulous Fox” is the centerpiece of the Fox Theater Historic District and a 4,678-seat performing arts venue. Elvis Presley, Madonna, and more have performed there, and it has also hosted the Atlanta Ballet, a summer film series, and national touring companies. Sign up for an educational tour earning 1.5 LUs (program code ET105) to enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour, including the auditorium, modeled after an Arabian courtyard, complete with a night sky of embedded crystal stars and drifting clouds.

Hyatt Regency Atlanta

A skyscraper with a 22-story atrium, a blue dome, and a revolving restaurant? That sounded like sci-fi in the 1960s—but Atlanta and John C. Portman, Jr., made it real. See this architectural stunner for yourself at its convenient Peachtree Street location. Plus, stay there at a special convention rate through [AIA Housing](#). Or register for the Design + Dining event “The Polaris Reborn” (program code EV108) and enjoy a delicious buffet with a rotating view of the city and an intimate discussion with designers from John Portman & Associates and the Johnson Studio.

Atlanta–Fulton County Library

There isn’t much dull about Atlanta—including its libraries. It’s immediately clear why Marcel Breuer’s brutalist and blocky Central Library building is sometimes called the “Whitney south.” As with many concrete structures of its era (1980), the vision isn’t always appreciated. This masterpiece is considered an endangered species, so catch it while you can. Set your GPS for 20 Forsythe Street, NW, rather than its official address.

There’s more to explore at AIA Convention 2015! [Visit the schedule](#) to browse more than 80 educational and fun tours of iconic architecture in the 404.

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AIA Expo 2015



A supercharged built environment

Over 170,000 sq. ft. of booths, galleries, and lounges. Nearly 800 exhibiting companies representing software and technology, energy efficiency, building systems, finishes, lighting, stone and tile, restoration and more. The materials and technologies of tomorrow featured in specialty product pavilions today.

AIA Convention 2015 is one of the largest gatherings of architecture and design professionals in the world, and the expo floor is a hotspot of activity. It's not just an exhibit hall—it's also a temporary built environment packed with the first looks that will affect your practice into the future. Here are few highlights:

- Get hands-on at the Virginia Tech FutureHAUS, a full responsive-design living and kitchen prototype
- See the YAF IOUP Competition winners build a sculpture for AIA Atlanta in real time, right on the Expo floor
- Drop in on the live broadcast of discussions and debates from ARCHITECT Live
- Meet up in the Emerging Professionals Lounge, scaled for relaxation

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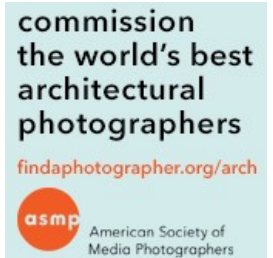
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and equipped with career-building resources

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Network while you earn LUs

Maximize your experience: Earn LUs in the CE Theaters and Learning Lounges or by browsing the floor, with Expo Chat. Networking is as easy as stopping by one of the lounges to recharge (yourself and your device), meet this year's honor award winners, or drop in on a happy hour.

New hours: Open late on day one

This year the expo is open later on day one, giving you more face time with exhibitors:

- Thursday, May 14: 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Friday, May 15: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Saturday, May 16: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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